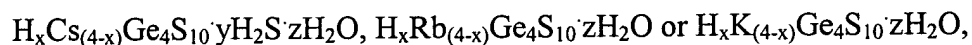

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A compound comprising:



wherein

$$0 < x \leq 4;$$

$$0 \leq y \leq 1; \text{ and}$$

$$z \geq 0.$$

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein $x = 4$.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein $z = 0$.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 3 comprising a compound having a double-decker structural ~~unit~~unit.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 4 wherein the double-decker compound is $\text{H}_2\text{Ge}_4\text{S}_9$.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 3 comprising a compound having an adamantane-like structural unit.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 6 wherein the adamantane-like compound is $\text{H}_4\text{Ge}_4\text{S}_{10}$.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein $z > 0$.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 8 comprising a compound having a double-decker structural ~~unit~~unit.
10. (Original) The compound of claim 9 wherein the double-decker compound is $\text{H}_4\text{Ge}_4\text{S}_{10}\cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ wherein $0 < x < 9$.
11. (Original) The compound of claim 8 comprising a compound having an adamantane-like structural unit.
12. (Original) The compound of claim 11 wherein the adamantane compound is $\text{H}_4\text{Ge}_4\text{S}_{10}\cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ wherein $0 < x < 9$.
13. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein the proton conductivity is between about 10^{-8} S/cm and 10^{-1} S/cm within a temperature range of between about -50 and 500 °C.

Claims 14-35 (Canceled).